

Sunday Worship

September 27, 2020

Order of Worship



Words of Gathering

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Hymn of Praise

“God of Freedom, God of Justice”

REGENT SQUARE

God of Grace who reigns above us, show us what it means to love.
Give us hearts that truly care for our neighbors everywhere.
You who are our guide and guardian, we would always follow you.

Make in us a captive conscience quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers, of whatever race or creed--
teach us to be fully human, open to each other's need.

Old Testament Reading

Mattie Kears

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, “The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,” and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.”

Stories About Neighboring

Rev. Lee Gray

Gospel Reading

Becky Skidmore

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord

our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself;' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question."

Hymn

"In Christ There is No East or West"

HYFRYDOL

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love through the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close binding human kind.

In Christ now meet both east and west in him meet south and north;
all loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

Prayer

Chuck Howard

Offertory

The Church at Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

J. Kevin Gray

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Remember In Prayer

Polly Hull, Gene & Carol Poole, Elma Thomas, Peggy Russ,
Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott), Andrew Adair,
Barbara Ledford, Tom Bryson, Carol Hager (sister of Betty Harkey)

The family of Carol Injaychock following the death of her mother Verna Fore.

Our Weekday School and Head Start Students and Staff.

Song

“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

ST. BRENDAN’S

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with our neighbor, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Message

“Making Every Day a Beautiful Day”

Closing Hymn

“God of Freedom, God of Justice”

REGENT SQUARE

God of freedom, God of justice, you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison, you who knew the price of faith-
touch our world of sad oppression with your Spirit's healing breath.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Postlude

“Prelude in Classic Style”

arr. Gordon Young

J Noel Lance, organist

Thank you to our musicians today: David Kern, flute; Tanja Bechtler, cello; J Noel Lance, organ; J Kevin Gray, Minister for Worship and Arts.

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina